

Funeral for a pope

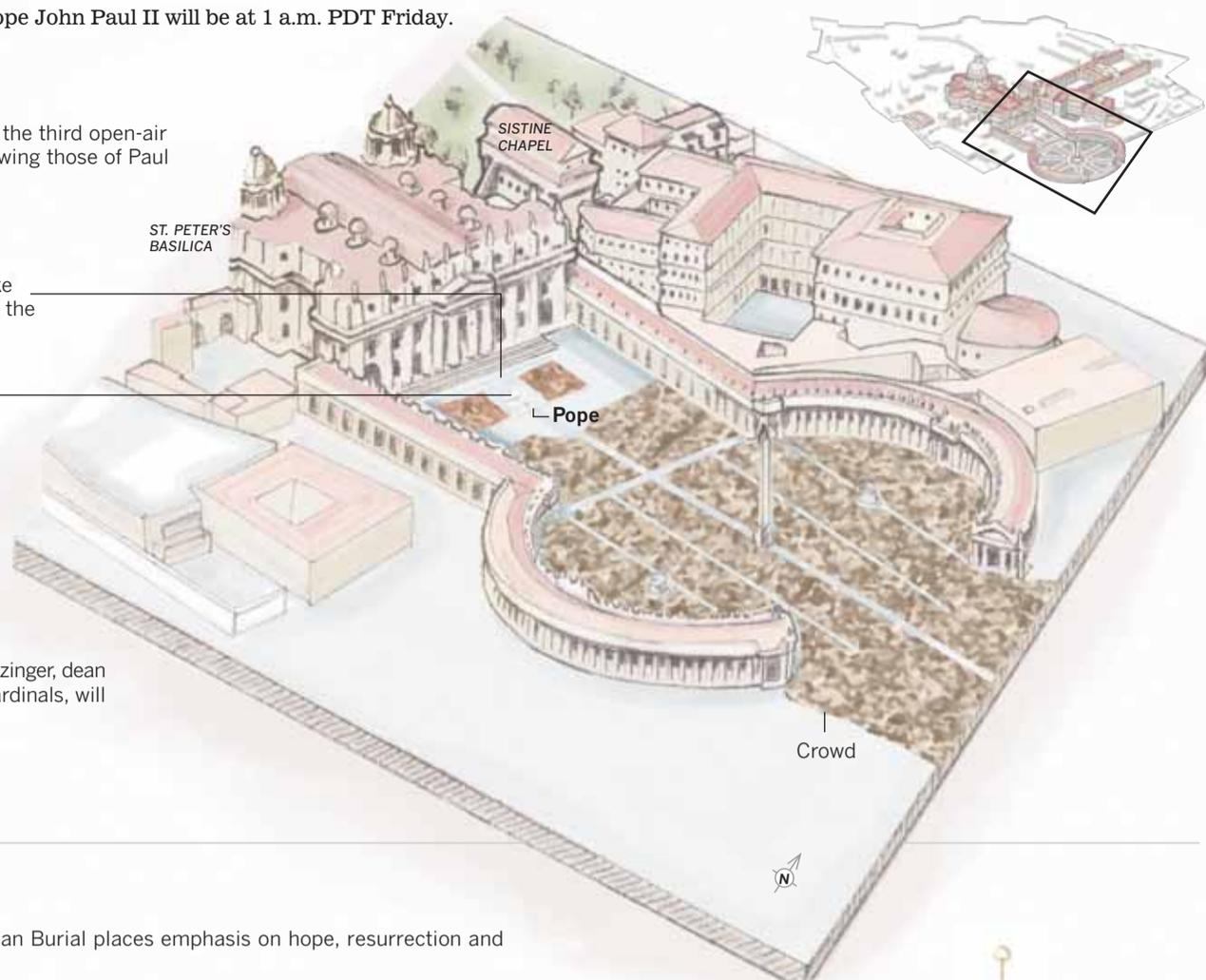
The service for Pope John Paul II will be at 1 a.m. PDT Friday.

Overview

The service will be the third open-air papal funeral, following those of Paul VI and John Paul I.

The service will take place at the foot of the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, dean of the College of Cardinals, will preside.



The Mass

The Mass of Christian Burial places emphasis on hope, resurrection and eternal life.

The order

The Mass, which has four main parts, is another name for the Eucharistic sacrifice that is the central act of the Roman Catholic faith.

1 Introductory Rites
Includes a procession and prayers.

2 Liturgy of the Word
Readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible. The final reading is always from one of the four Gospels, in this case from St. John's account of Jesus asking Peter, "Do you love me?" and telling him, "Feed my sheep." These readings are followed by a homily (sermon).

3 Liturgy of the Eucharist
Catholics believe that bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ at the moment of consecration, following Jesus' instruction at the Last Supper to "do this in memory of me." Holy Communion is distributed.

4 Concluding Rite
Includes the blessing and dismissal, followed by another procession.

The objects

Items used at various points in the service:

Chalice

Contains altar wine that is consecrated during the Mass

Host

Unleavened bread that is consecrated during the Mass

Chasuble

Outer vestment worn by the celebrant; color varies depending on the occasion

Sacramentary

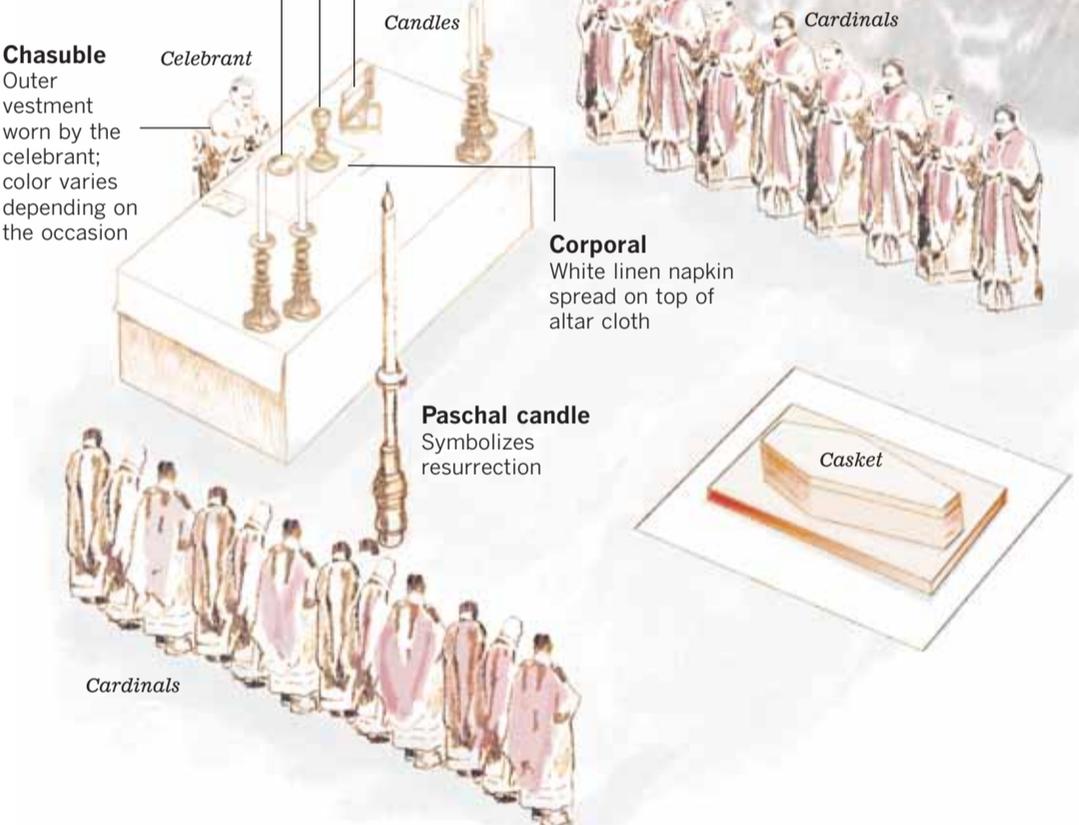
A book that contains the solemn prayers of the Mass, including the Canon

Aspergillum

Used to sprinkle people or objects with holy water

Thurible

Perforated vessel suspended on a chain in which incense is burned



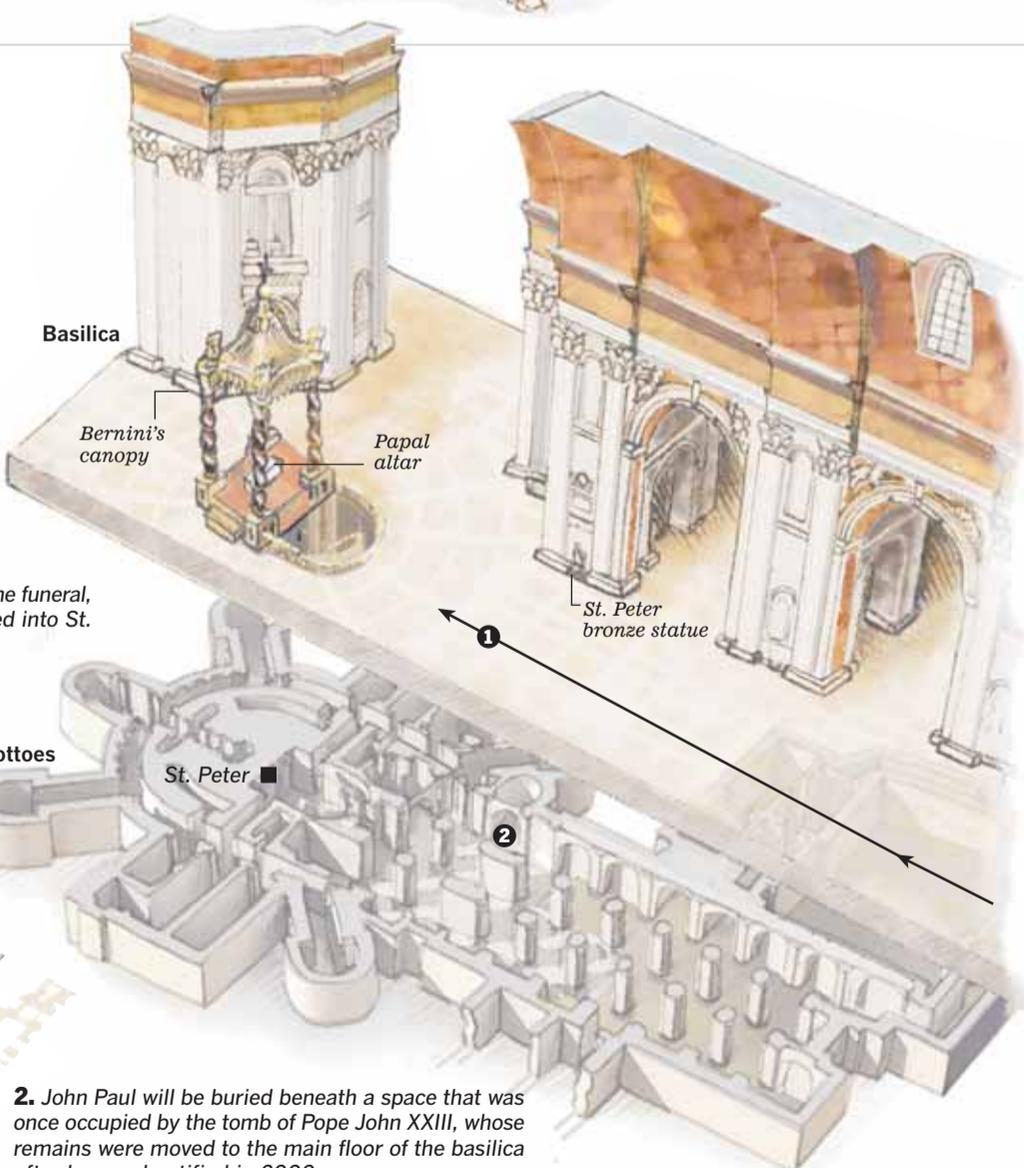
Last journey

John Paul II will be buried in the grottoes of St. Peter's Basilica. He will be only the second modern pope buried in the earth, joining Paul VI. All the other popes buried there are in sarcophagi.

John Paul will be buried with a white silk veil on his face and a rosary in his hands, clad in liturgical vestments and his white bishop's miter.

A small bag of commemorative medals struck during his papacy and a sealed document featuring a description of his life will be interred with him.

1. At the conclusion of the funeral, John Paul will be carried into St. Peter's Basilica.



2. John Paul will be buried beneath a space that was once occupied by the tomb of Pope John XXIII, whose remains were moved to the main floor of the basilica after he was beatified in 2000.

Television news coverage planned

(all times PDT)

ABC: 12:30 a.m., Charles Gibson, anchor.

CBS: 1 a.m., Harry Smith and John Roberts, anchors.

NBC: 12:50 a.m., Brian Williams and Katie Couric, anchors.

CNN: midnight, Anderson Cooper, Christiane Amanpour and Bill Hemmer, with Soledad O'Brien in New York, anchors.

Fox News: midnight, Shepard Smith and Martha MacCallum, anchors.

MSNBC: 1 a.m., Chris Matthews, Chris Jansing, anchors.

Sources: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Vatican; The Essential Catholic Handbook; St. Joseph Catholic Manual; Called to Serve, A Guidebook for Altar Servers; Catholic News Service; Times reporting. Graphics reporting by TOM REINKEN and PAUL DUGINSKI